## TUESDAY March 26 2002

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Volume 70, Number 60

The

# Family questions hospital trip

#### Today

weather

report

**42**°

at noon

• Sunset, 6:04 p.m. Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:39 a.m. • Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

#### Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 55 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds west 5 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling
- Record High 82° (1998) • Record Low -1° (1955)

#### Last 24 Hours\* $26^{\circ}$ High

Low	11°
Precipitation	.02
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#### **Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: partly cloudy, low mid 20s, winds southwest 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy and warmer, high lower 70s, low near 30, winds southwest 10-20 m.p.h.

#### **Extended Forecast**

Thursday: mostly sunny, high upper 60s, low near 30. Friday: mostly clear, high upper 50s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high near 60, low lower 30s.

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m.



#### Noon Wheat — \$2.62 bushel Posted county price — \$2.52 New Crop — \$2.58 Corn — \$1.86 bushel



Godland Daily News

#### **By Rachel Miscall**

The Goodland Daily News Connie Ginn had been fighting a bad going out in the bad weather. nose bleed for a couple of days when herniece, a nurse at Goodland Regional Medical Center, told her it was time to go to the hospital.

The 60-year-old Ginn and her hus-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 7. She said doctors told her blood ves-

sels in the nasal cavity under her right eye had ruptured. They gave her blood to replace what she had lost, but arrived just before 1:30 a.m. couldn't stop her from losing more. Realizing that she could die if she lost

more blood, Dr. David Younger decided Ginn needed to be flown to a Denver hospital.

A freezing fog and light freezing drizzle had reduced driving visibility to a quarter of a mile, however, and Dr. Younger said the Eagle Med air ambulance in Wichita couldn't fly. Connie Ginn would have to go to Denver by a ground ambulance.

Not long after Ginn was admitted, hospital staff contacted University Hospital in Denver to arrange for her to be transferred there. They also called on my mom wasn't going to make it and volunteer emergency medical technicians, who help run the ambulance service here, to drive Ginn to Denver.

After considering the weather, Ginn's medical condition and the kind of care the ambulance service here could provide, doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians decided it wouldn't be safe for the Goodland crew to transport Ginn.

They decided instead to have an ambulance from Denver, with moreadvanced equipment and better-trained ambulance here from traveling, but not staff, drive about 200 miles to pick-up an ambulance from Denver? Ginn and then take her back.

but staff here felt she was better off stav-

lance was having to drive from Denver because the crew here didn't feel like

**Eight Pages** 

Ginn said it upset her to hear that the Goodland ambulance wouldn't transport her and that she would have to wait four or more hours before the Denver crew arrived. She and her family were band Joe said she was admitted about scared, her life was at stake and they felt the ambulance crew wasn't taking it seriously.

Ginn said all she could do was wait and worry until the Denver ambulance

"I didn't have any choice," she said. "I just had to stay there."

Meanwhile, Connie's son Phillip, a Goodland High School graduate, was pacing his Denver home. He was worried about his mother.

Phillip Ginn said hospital staff told him his mother's blood pressure was dropping and he got the feeling that she was on the verge of death. He said he was alarmed when he heard the ambulance service in Goodland would not haul his mother to Denver because of bad weather.

"To be honest," he said, "I thought was shocked an ambulance from Denver was going to drive out to pick her up and then turn back around to Denver."

Ginn said she asked hospital staff if her husband could drive her to Denver, but they told her she probably wouldn't make it. She said she couldn't understand how she had time to wait for the ambulance from Denver.

Joe Ginn said he didn't understand either. How could the weather stop the

"Make those guys from Denver drive That solution would mean a four- twice as far, twice the time?" he said. hour delay in getting Ginn to Denver, "It just wasn't right the way they did it."

The couple said the ambulance driving at the hospital than chancing a trip ers from Denver didn't seem to under-



Goodland, Kansas 67735

Debbie George, a respiratory therapist and volunteer with the Goodland emergency medical service, got behind the wheel of the new ambulance at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

### Hospital preparing for advanced service an ambulance," says Jeff Krall, emer- has the size and some of the features

#### By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News gency medical services director for the needed for advanced service, Jolly said. and the board has approve noney to train paramedics to run it. Eagle Med plans to base an air ambulance here starting April 15, he said, and the Eagle Med staff will help the hospital to train other people for the advanced life support. But more is involved. The first thing the hospital needs, Krall said, is to get the equipment. The main piece they need, he said, is an advanced cardiac monitor, which will cost well over \$20,000.

Posted county price — \$1.83 Loan deficiency payment — 16¢ Milo — \$1.57 bushel Soybeans — \$4.03 bushel Posted county price — \$3.96 Loan deficiency payment — 96¢ Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight Sunflowers Oil current crop — \$9.20 cwt. NuSun — \$9.35 Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢ Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt. Pinto beans — \$27 (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures. )

in the Goodland ambulance.

support and doesn't have the equipment or staff to transfer an unstable patient who may need more blood or specialized care. Jeff Krall, ambulance director and the only paramedic trained to hook up an intravenous line, was out of town. The weather would make the trip longer and more dangerous.

Doctors, nurses and ambulance vol-What they remember was that her condition was serious enough to warrant an air ambulance, but an ambu-

stand either, and they drove 85 mph on The service here offers only basic life the way back — making it to Denver in just over 3 hours at 4:40 a.m.

Joe Ginn said one ambulance driver asked, "What's the deal? You don't have an ambulance here?"

Connie Ginn said the weather wasn't a problem.

"The drivers said it wasn't bad at all," she said.

Jay Jolly, administrator at the unteers understood the decision, but Goodland hospital, said driving condi-Ginn and her family apparently didn't. tions were bad and the ambulance crew felt they didn't have the right equip-

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There is a big accident, a major pileup. Two or three ambulances respond with full crews and stocked with enough equipment to be miniature emergency rooms. By the time the patients reach the hospital, they are already hooked up to IVs and life monitors

This is the type of service provided on "E.R." and hospitals on other television shows, but in real life, most ambulance services are limited by what a hospital can afford and the staff they are able to hire.

"People see stuff on TV and expect that to be what happens when they call

Goodland Regional Medical Center. "But that's what happens if you have the right staff trained for that service."

The hospital is working in that direction by updating from Basic Life Support ambulance service to Advanced Life Support.

The emergency medical technicians here are good, Krall said, and they ask questions and try to better themselves. But there are simply some things they are not trained to do. Administrator Jay Jolly said he doesn't know when the hospital can offer the advanced service, but they are trying to get ready now. A

new ambulance the hospital purchased

They also need more personnel, he

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## afternoon wire from the Associated Press 1 p.m. Afghan quake kills 1,800

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful earthquake rocked Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan, killing about 1,800 people and injuring 2,000, Afghan officials said today. The Afghan Defense Ministry said 600 bodies were recovered from villages still shaking from aftershocks.

Acted, a private aid organization, estimated 10,000 people had been left homeless, basing its numbers on reports from staff in the devastated area near Nahrin, 90 miles north of Kabul on the slopes of the Hindu Kush mountains, in a region already hard-hit by drought, war and food shortages.

At the scene, regional commander Gen. Aider Khan said as many as 1,500 to 2,000 people were missing. Many of Nahrin's residents spent the night without food or shelter because nearly all of their homes were destroyed.

## House debating budget cuts The question is, how much cutting can the members tolerate?

debating budget issues today, and its leaders expected to learn how much cutting members can stomach in trying to close a projected \$700 million budget gap.

Before the chamber was a budget to right itself." plan drafted by its Appropriations Committee to eliminate the shortfall the gap between expected revenues and required spending over the next 15 months — without increasing taxes. But some Republicans, sensing colleagues would not accept cuts in education and social services, outlined a proposal Monday for preventing some of the committee's proposed cuts.

Their proposal would dip into state reserves for \$100 million and count on \$83 million in extra federal funds.

TOPEKA(AP)—The House began finance ongoing expenditures after July suspension of vehicle and furniture 1. That money would dry up after one year.

> "These are not normal times," Rep. Tony Powell, R-Wichita, told reporters. 'We think in the out years, this is going

Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer called the proposal irresponsible.

"They're digging a terrific hole, and just whatever problems we have this year would be magnified next year," he said. "A lot of this is folks who don't know what they're talking about having a news conference.'

The committee's plan still cuts state spending, including reducing state aid to public schools by \$303 per pupil, to \$3,567

It also includes cuts in higher educa-The plan calls for taking one-time tion and social services, forced unpaid money and putting it into the budget to days off for state employees, a one-year

purchases and even an 80-day legislative session for 2003, instead of the traditional 90 days.

The committee's plan would break promises for extra money for higher education and highway projects made in previous years. Then, it would cut spending for the next fiscal year \$439 million to \$4.07 billion.

The committee fashioned a plan in keeping with repeated House votes two weeks ago against raising sales, income, property and estate taxes.

The alternative outlined by Powell and other GOP legislators would keep state aid to schools at its present \$3,870. Gov. Bill Graves outlined his budget proposal Friday, and it balances spend-

ing cuts with \$364 million in sales, cigarette, income and estate tax increases.

# Internet service making upgrade

changes in their computers next sible. Wednesday as the firm changes Internet suppliers.

Tom Betz, director of Internet service, said every user will need to change Instructions were sent out in a mailing numbers won't work

Users of the nwkansas.com Internet this month. Any user that does not have system will have to make a couple of them should get a set as soon as pos-

The change has to be made after lunch next Wednesday. If you do it before then, Mr. Betz said, your computer won't work until the system changes. the "domain name," or DNS, settings. If you don't do it about that time, the old

Help will be available for users with problems at nwkansas.com offices in Oberlin, Goodland, St. Francis and Colby. In Goodland, the number is 785-899-2338

"The actual changeover should take only a few minutes," Mr. Betz said, "but

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Caleb Lucas scanned the cover of a book at the "Read and Be Free" Scholastic Book Fair held all last week in the Grant Junior High Li-Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News brary.